

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawings includes changes to Figure 1D. The attached "Replacement Sheet," which includes Figure 1D, replaces the original sheet including Figure 1D.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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REMARKS

Claims 1-22, 25-36, and 39 are now pending in the application. Claims 40-42 have been cancelled without prejudice. Minor amendments have been made to the specification to correct clerical errors. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein. No new matter has been added

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.84(p)(5) because they included reference characters 286, which was not mentioned in the specification, and because a reference line for reference character 271 is missing from FIG. 1D.

Applicants disagree that reference character 286 is not mentioned in the specification. Applicants refer the Examiner to paragraph 0038, line 5 of the specification which includes reference character 286. Applicants had amended paragraph 0038, line 5 in the Amendment dated 3/28/06 to include reference character 286.

Applicants have also attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheets," Figure 1D has been amended to include the reference line, which was inadvertently omitted.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 3, 4, 12-14, and 26-28 because of the inclusion of the term "rotational" in the phrase "applying a rotational force." In response, as requested by the Examiner, the Applicants have deleted the term "rotational."

The Examiner also objected to claim 12 because of incongruent titling. Applicants have amended claim 12 along with all claims depending from claim 12 as requested by the Examiner.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 11-13, 22, 25-27, 36, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. Pat. No. 6,557,447). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, as amended, reads, in relevant part, as follows: "a cam assembly, the cam assembly applying a force to the tension spring assembly" and claims 12 and 26 read, in relevant part, as follows: "a cam assembly operationally engaging with the tension spring assembly, the cam assembly applying a force to the tension spring."

Lee fails to teach, disclose, or suggest a cam assembly applying a force to the tension spring assembly. Rather, Lee has a slide seat 20 mounted in a receiving slot 21 in the interior of the top seat 13 of the machine stand 10 that slides longitudinally. Included within the slide seat 20 are seat block 40, an auxiliary rod 63, a second elastic member 70, and a portion of micro-adjustment rod 60. The slide seat 20 also includes a cross rod 22, located at its upper end, the body of which is referred to as a press portion 26. Lee also discloses an eccentric wheel 30 which is rotated by the user via handle 36, 37. The eccentric wheel 30 abuts the press portion 26 and depending on the orientation of the eccentric wheel, the slide seat 20 is slidably moved longitudinally via the press portion 26 of the cross rod 22. As the slide seat 20 is moved longitudinally, all the interior components discussed above move with the slide seat.

Accordingly, when a user turns the handle 36, 37, rotating the eccentric cam 30, the cam 30 does not apply a force to the seat block 40, the auxiliary rod 63, the second elastic member

70, and a portion of micro-adjustment rod 60. Instead, the cam only applies a force to the slide seat 20 via the press portion 26 of the cross rod 22.

In addition, claims 1, 12, and 26 also read, in relevant part, as follows: "a cover assembly adjustably coupled with the cam assembly, the cover assembly including a handle for enabling a user to selectively engage the cover assembly with the cam assembly in an index position, the handle having a first tensioning position and a second tensioning position for translating the user selected tensioning force to the tension spring assembly through the cam assembly."

Lee also fails to teach, disclose, or suggest a cover assembly including a handle for enabling a user to selectively engage the cover assembly with the cam assembly. Lee includes a cam 30 that is fastened to pivoting rod 32, via bolt 33, which in turn is connected to handle 36. As a result of the arrangement of the elements, the cam 30 cannot selectively engage pivoting rod 32 and handle 36. Instead, cam 30 is always engaged with pivoting rod 32 and handle 36.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-3, 11-13, 22, 25-27, 36, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (410) 716-2886. No extension of time fees are believed due for this submission, however if any extension fees are due with this submission, please charge deposit account number 02-2548.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1/16/08

By: 
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